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SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 1953

I went to see Mr. Beyen at the Hotel Meurice this morning at his invitation.

He told me that during the course of his present stay in Paris he would discuss with Bidault and Pella what he was now going to say to me and that he had already done so to Van Zeeland.

The Dutch Government has decided on the following policy toward EPC. Drees and Beyen will insist the EPC should be clothed with certain economic responsibilities. The rest of the Cabinet and the Dutch Parliament will not accept such an organization on any other terms. However, in view of the complexity of the issues involved in this field, the Dutch are willing to postpone consideration of them for the present. At the Hague conference, therefore, the Dutch will probably propose their acceptance of the institutional provisions for EDC, including a real supranational Executive and one chamber elected directly by the people of Europe. The members of this supranational Executive would be appointed in the first instance so as to enable them to function properly by agreement between the national governments although not necessarily by unanimity. The Executive would assume direction over the operations of the Commissariat of EDC. The membership of the Commissariat and the Executive might well be identical although this is a matter requiring further study. Beyen hopes such an accord would satisfy Guy Mollet's wishes. The Ministers at The Hague would then decide to establish a committee to sit continuously as long as necessary to consider what might be worked out to satisfy the Dutch desire for a common market. He thinks that over a period of time many of the French objections to the establishment of such a market might be overcome, even if it required special treatment of certain French commodities.

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Beyen believes the important thing is to get the EDC rapidly ratified, and then the EPC can be discussed expeditiously but in a calmer atmosphere.

This was the gist of his conversation, and further details appear in a despatch from The Hague on October 28 reporting the conversation Chapin had with Beyen on the occasion of Chapin's farewell call upon him.

Walter Lippmann came to see me at the office and we had an agreeable talk on a lot of international problems. He told me one disturbing thing. Although he was not himself present at Admiral Radford's press conference with the American correspondents a few days ago, he has been informed that in the course of it Radford made the categorical statement that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had decided by 1956 to withdraw all American ground troops from Europe with the exception of perhaps one division.

Walter thinks this will undoubtedly leak out next week, and I agree with him that the dissemination of such a report would cause general consternation amongst our Allies. If this does happen, the President alone would be able to allay some of the unfortunate consequences of Radford's statement. Obviously, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have no final power to determine American policy in this sense, but the Europeans, unfamiliar as they are with American constitutional processes and equally unaccustomed to the equivalent of the Chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff telling newspaper correspondents what has been decided, would be greatly influenced by this news.

I trust this information may prove to be at least in part inaccurate, but I am fearful it is correct.

Walter Giblin came to lunch with us. I had not seen him for a couple of years. He is glad to be back in his old haunts in Paris, some of which we shared together in 1944.

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